

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06

INT-08 SS-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

STR-08 OPIC-12 DRC-01 /125 W
----- 015562

R 181509Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1271

INFO USDA/FAS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BERN

UNCLAS VIENNA 0479

USDA/FAS FOR HUME; BERN FOR AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR; ENRG, AU

SUBJ: ENERGY: FERTILIZER SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

REF: STATE 5278; FASTO 296.

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL: AUSTRIA VIRTUALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS. CHEMIE LINZ AG, UPPER AUSTRIA, MANUFACTURES COMMODITY IN EXCESS DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS, WITH BALANCE GOING FOR EXPORT. EXPORT DATA NOT REVEALED BY COMPANY BUT THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT COMPANY SHIPS MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF OUTPUT ABROAD. IN PHOSPHATIC MATERIALS COUNTRY DEPENDS ON IMPORTS AT RATE OF ABOUT 25-30 PERCENT PROCURED IN FORM OF THOMAS MEAL AND/OR SLAG FROM EC. POTASH REQUIREMENT IS COVERED AT RATE OF 100 PERCENT THROUGH IMPORTS FROM EC, EAST GERMANY AND SOVIET UNION. BELOW-LISTED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF PTASH-CONTAINING MIXED FERTILIZERS THUS RELIES ON IMPORTED POTASH. ALL DATA ARE IN TERMS OF PURE NUTRIENTS.

JULY-JUNE

TYPE OF NUTRIENT	1971-72	1972-73
NITROGEN		METRIC TONS

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OUTPUT (FOR DOMESTIC USE ONLY) 138,685 135,242

IMPORTS	694	741
EXPORTS	NA	NA
SALES TO DISTRIBUTORS	139,379	135,983
P2O5 (PHOSPHORIC ACID)		
OUTPUT, TOTAL	98,498	93,202
IMPORTS (MAINLY THOMAS		
SLAG AND/OR MEAL)	38,176	32,820
EXPORTS	O	O
SALES TO DISTRIBUTORS	136,674	126,022
K2O (POTASH)		
OUTPUT MIXED FERTILIZER		
CONTAINING COMPONENT OF		
IMPORTED K2O)	72,947	71,012
IMPORTS	91,771	81,730
EXPORTS	0	0
SALES TO DISTRIBUTORS	164,718	152,742

DATA ON STOCKS OR ACTUAL CONSUMPTION UNAVAILABLE. SALES TO DISTRIBUTORS SHOWN ABOVE NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATE INDICATOR OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION SINCE DISTRIBUTORS' INVENTORY DISPOSITIONS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS.

2. OUTLOOK FOR 1973-74 BLURRED BY RECENT AND IMINENT INCREASES IN FERTILIZER PRICES. JULY-NOVEMBER 1973 SALES TO DISTRIBUTORS, IN TERMS OF PURE NUTRIENTS, WERE OFF 10 PER CENT FOR N, AND OVER 40 PERCENT EACH FOR P2O5 AND K2O. EXPERTS FEAR SALES VOLUME MAY DIP FURTHER IF PRICE HIKES OF 20 -50 PERCENT FOR COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS MATERIALIZE FEBRUARY 1 AS ENVISAGED. AGRICULTURE CURRENTLY SEEKING WAIVERS OF 16PERCENT VALUE-ADDED TAX ON FERTILIZERS AS WELL AS HIGHER FARM PRODUCT PRICES TO HAVE RISE IN FERTILIZER COST NEUTRALIZED.

3. AS TO PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS 1974-75, NO ONE VENTURING A GUESS BEYOND NOTING THAT FERTILIZER APPLICATION WILL SUFFER MAJOR SETBACK UNLESS GOA TAKES CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION ON THESE FARMER DEMANDS. HOWEVER, EFFECT OF CURRENT SITUATION ON 1974-75 PRODUCTION MAJOR FARM PRODUCTS BELIEVED INSIGNIFICANT SINCE SOILS WELL STOCKED WITH P2O5 AND K2O FROM PAST APPLICATIONS AND USE OF N NOT CRITICALLY BELOW PREVIOUS LEVELS.

4. AVERAGE FERTILIZER PRICES TO FARMERS, PER 100 KILOGRAMS, UNCLASSIFIED

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CURRENTLY AS FOLLOWS: CALCIUM AMMONIUM NITRATE, AS 220; POTASH 40 PERCENT, AS 130; POTASH 60 PERCENT, AS 180; SUPER-PHOSPHATE, AS 130; THOMAS PHOSPHATE, AS 120.

5. GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT 1972 PREL. FORECAST

1973	1974
BILLION AS	
GNP BASED ON MARKET PRICES FOR	

YEAR IN QUESTION 476.65 NA NA

CONSTANT (1964) PRICES 339.00 359.1 370.0

INCREASE IN REAL GROWTH OVER PRECEING

YEAR 6.4 PERCENT 5.9. PERCENT 3.0 PERCENT

6. RATE OF EXCHANGE JANUARY 16, 1974; U.S. \$1.00 - AS 20.87.

HUMES

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NNN

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